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# Death in the Desert

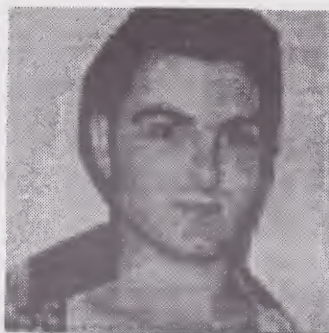
Lin "Spit" Newborn and Dan Shersty were good friends. They lived in Las Vegas and hung out together all the time. Newborn, 24, was black and worked in a local body-piercing shop. Shersty, 20, was white and was in the Air Force, servicing fighter planes at the nearby Nellis Air Force Base.

Both were skinheads. They shared a love of music and working-class culture. They also shared a passionate hatred of racism. Dan and Spit were members of the Unity Skins and leaders of the new Las Vegas chapter of Anti-Racist Action (ARA).

On Friday, July 3, two young women came into Spit's shop. One got a piercing and then they invited Newborn and Shersty to "a party" that night. "Spit and Dan were last seen when they left to go meet these girls," said one Ohio ARA activist. "Dan was found the next day right by his car in the desert, shot and beaten; and then Spit was found later, about 150 feet from the car, his body riddled with bullets."

Months later, Las Vegas police charged local neo-nazi John Edward Butler with the killings. Ballistics reports showed that Butler's gun was the murder weapon. Police have identified two other members of the racist scene who have not yet been charged.

Witnesses saw Butler and two others driving from the he area of the murders. According to press reports, the witnesses wrote down a license plate number, and police traced it back to the family of Melissa Jane Hack, 22, of Las Vegas. Melissa Hack had recently been involved in another incident, a racist attack on a black family. The evidence suggests perhaps dozens of racists were present when the murders in the desert occurred.



Dan Shersty

These two young men will be missed. They were real leaders. Spit Newborn was the kind of guy who stood out. For a while he sang in a local band called Life of Lies. He was a little older than many of his friends and he had a two year-old son. "He came to our meetings and brought a lot of literature about the true history of skinheads," said a Las Vegas ARA member. "Spit was a super-nice kid," said Harry Fagel, a police officer who patrols the neighborhood where Newborn worked. "He was looked up to by the kids in the area. He espoused a viewpoint of nonviolence. He wasn't a pacifist, but he didn't go looking for trouble."

Dan Shersty was from Florida. He joined the Air Force to earn money for college, but he always wanted to be an actor. When his body was found, he had a tattoo of the masks of comedy and tragedy on his left shoulder. One mask was black and the other was white. Dan's father Walter Shersty knew his son wasn't racist: "He always had black friends and white friends and Puerto Rican friends. He was like us. He treated people the way he wanted to be treated."

Daniel played trumpet in the school marching band, and had one of the lead roles in his high school production of "Harvey." "As far as I'm concerned, Danny is a hero," his stepmother said. "He not only died for his country, he died for his friends."

Four hundred people attended Spit's funeral. Hundreds more came to Las Vegas for a memorial March against Racism on August 29 (See "Leaving Las Vegas," page 3). The Las Vegas ARA continues to organize.



Lin "Spit" Newborn

## A Trail of Tears

The murders of Spit and Dan were political assassinations, committed by members of the modern U.S. fascist movement. And what's worse, it was only one example of a trend.

The last half of 1998 brought one tragic story after another.

Just a few weeks before the Las Vegas murders, the world was stunned by a brutal racist killing in Jasper, Texas. James Byrd was walking home from a party for his niece, when he was picked up by three white guys. Before these racists chained Mr. Byrd to the back of their truck—a big, gray, rusted Ford—they drove up to an abandoned logging road and beat him. Then John King, one of the killers, said "we're starting *The Turner Diaries* early," referring to the nazi novel about a race war, the same book that served as the blueprint for the Oklahoma City bombing.

The killers chained James Byrd to the back of the truck and dragged him at high speeds for nearly three miles through a black neighborhood. The three men arrested have been charged with murder. A cigarette lighter with a Ku Klux Klan symbol was found at the murder scene. Two of the suspects reportedly had Aryan Brotherhood tattoos, and had been monitored by officials while in prison for their association with the KKK.

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After the Texas and Las Vegas incidents, the trail of tears moved north. David "Gypsy" Chain, an environmental activist protesting against the logging of old growth redwood trees in northern California, was crushed by a redwood being felled by loggers. Earth First! has a videotape in which the same loggers threatened activists just before Chain was killed.

(continued, page 2)



(Death in the Desert, continued)

On October 6, the horrible torture and murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard in Wyoming brought a new wave of outrage (See "Matthew Shepard, 1977-1998," pages 4-5).

Two weeks later, a sniper killed Dr. Barnett Slepian, 51, while he stood in his kitchen. Slepian's home and clinic have been targeted for protest since the 1980's by anti-abortion groups. Slepian's name was featured on an anti-gay/anti-abortion website (called the Nuremberg Files), which posts information on doctors who perform abortions. Dr. Slepian, widely respected for his OB/GYN work, is survived by his wife and four sons, ages 7 to 15. This was the fifth such attack on an abortion doctor on or around the Veteran's Day holiday in recent years. No suspects have been charged in this or any of the previous attacks.

As 1998 comes to an end, the question is not whether more hate murders will occur, it's when.

### REAL ANSWERS

Of course, political officials expressed outrage at these various atrocities. Everyone from local mayors up to President Clinton made public statements condemning the killings. Then they filled the media with debates about whether more hate-crime laws should be passed or not.

But the whole debate over these statutes misses the point. The government cannot and will not find real solutions for the attitudes that lead to hate crimes. Passing one more law is not that important. There were already laws on the books against kidnapping and murder even before all the killings occurred. Those laws didn't stop any of these things from happening.

It's up to us to change things. We can't wait any longer for so-called leaders to do it. But what can we do to help get rid of this bigoted violence, and the backward ideas that lead to such crimes? The problems all seem so big and there don't seem to be any real leaders.

One thing is sure. We can't do it alone. We have to get organized into groups, get more people involved. We have to build a movement in every city, in every school, in every neighborhood. We need to learn to get along with people who are different from us, so that we can work together. Every project no matter how small will contribute to our overall success.

It's also our job to clear up the confusion that exists concerning the sources of organized hate in North America. There are specific people and groups doing all they can to increase the violence. The death of James Byrd, the Oklahoma City bombing and other atrocities can be laid directly on the doorstep of the nazi National Alliance in West Virginia, and its evil leader William Pierce. Pierce's *Turner Diaries* inspired those crimes, just as Pierce intended. Pierce continues to spread his poison. We should do something about the National Alliance.

What are you gonna do about it? Did it anger you when you heard about Matthew Shepard? When you read this article did you feel sad? What are you gonna do?

Get in touch with your local chapter of the Anti-Racist Action Network. If there's no group where you are, get some other people and start your own group. Get to work. Do it for James Byrd and Matthew Shepard. Do it for Spit and Dan. And for the new victims who have not yet been hurt—the new names we will all learn after it's too late to save them. Do something today before it's too late. What are you gonna do?

## Mumia Needs Help Now

The life of Mumia Abu-Jamal is in grave danger. In the face of much evidence of his innocence, and a grossly unfair trial, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court unanimously ruled against all of Mumia's appeals. This sets the stage for Governor Ridge to sign a warrant for his execution, as he has already promised to do. Mumia issued a statement about the decision. He said "I am sorry

that this court did not rule on the right side of history. But I am not surprised. Every time our nation has come to a fork in the road with regard to race, it has chosen to take the path of compromise and betrayal. On October 29, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court committed a collective crime: it damned due process, strangled the fair trial, and raped justice. I remain innocent. A court cannot make an innocent man guilty. The righteous fight for life, liberty and for justice can only continue."



### Get involved. Contact:

The Committee to Save  
Mumia Abu-Jamal  
163 Amsterdam Ave., #115  
New York, NY 10023  
(212) 580-1022.  
fhorstmann@msn.com

**Do it now, before  
it's too late.**

## GREENSBORO JUSTICE FUND

On a sunny Saturday morning in 1979, a multi-racial group of activists gathered at the Morningside Housing Complex in Greensboro, North Carolina. They were about to hold a rally and march against the KKK. A line of cars and pick-up trucks came down the street, full of racists from the KKK and nazi groups. In an attack planned and supported by government agents, the racists gunned down five leaders of the local movement.

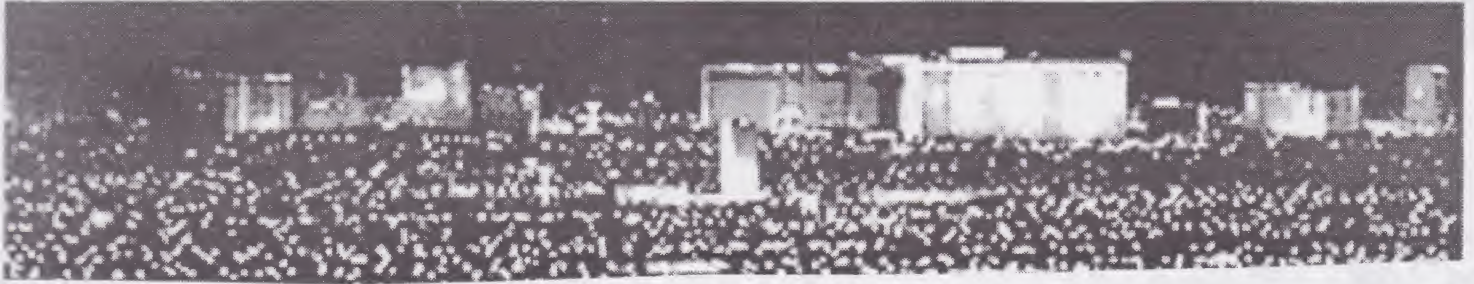
Family and friends of the victims recently marked the 19th anniversary of the Greensboro Massacre. For the last two decades they have been building a movement in the South, through the Greensboro Justice Fund, to further the goals that their loved-ones died for. They have put into practice the advice of the revolutionary Mother Jones, "Don't mourn, organize."

The Fund has recently been helping to build local, interfaith religious committees that support low wage workers in their struggle for decent wages, benefits and working conditions. For example, in the Georgia Poultry Workers Justice Project, religious congregations have joined with poultry workers in a battle for the right to organize a union.

Get on their mailing list. Offer to help. Send them money!!! Greensboro Justice Fund, P.O. Box 4, Haydenville, MA 01039. And never forget Bill Sampson, Jim Waller, Sandi Smith, Cesar Cauce, and Mike Nathan—the people murdered by the racists in Greensboro.



# Leaving Las Vegas



So, it's Sunday and I'm sitting in the open-air restaurant in the Las Vegas Airport. I'm in exactly the same spot where, just over a year ago, I sat with Julie, Jesse and Sheri, my daughter, son, and daughter-in-law. The very same table. It was here that Julie and Sheri went shopping for Beanie Babies. This is where I learned that "they've got some really rare ones, Dad" and "these are a good investment." Jesse and I smiled in befuddlement.

The last trip to Vegas was for fun, a family vacation. And we had fun. Saw Cirque du Soleil's "Mystere." Saw Penn & Teller. Roamed the strip enjoying the all-too-rare-these-days leisure company of my family. In a role reversal from the Las Vegas trips of earlier decades, the kids went out and gambled late at night, while dad watched a little TV and went to bed. That was last year.

But in 1998 I'm back in Las Vegas. Not to vacation but to support my brothers and sisters in Anti-Racist Action. Sitting in the restaurant, revisiting their splendid huevos rancheros, I consider the last three days. I met some new old friends, the ARA kids from Vegas. I spoke about ARA to media reps from CBS' *48 Hours* and *The New York Times*.

We were the first story on the local news Friday night. I'm accustomed to being on television at home. But there I was, big as life, the opening voice on Channel 13, talking about ARA and the March against Racism planned for the next day. It occurs to me that thousands of people who live here are hearing about ARA for the first time at that moment. Not to mention thousands more, from all over the world, in their rooms at places like the Desert Inn and Caesar's Palace. If my dad were still alive, he would have liked that.

On Saturday we marched. I wasn't much help in the shit work of march prepara-

tion. I sat in my room most of the time, working on projects I had brought from home.

The tension increased all day Saturday as it got closer to 5:00. And then we were there. Representatives from ARA chapters as far away as Toronto, Detroit, Eugene. People representing lots of radical groups—Workers World, Radical Women, Campaign for Human Dignity, People Against Racist Terror, Refuse and Resist, Freedom Socialist Party, United Front Against Fascism, Anarchist Black Cross, and more—the "united front" walking down Flamingo Boulevard. Also some locals, Las Vegas residents who heard about the march and came out.

My waiter, a young handsome Hispanic-looking guy, is very efficient. I'm on my fourth cup of coffee, and the images from the march are rushing through my mind. Serious respect for our two lost brothers, Spit and Dan, comes from every group and every speaker. The march is spirited, comradely in a less self-conscious way than most radical left events I've seen. Afterwards, we gather for a while. A few beers and some pizza prepare us to watch ourselves on the news. We looked good. Cool banners, strong voices. We get props for having the march go off "without incident."

On my way to the airport this morning I grabbed the Las Vegas Review Journal. The march is on the front page of the local section. The headline reads "Rally Holds Anti-Hate Message." The coverage is positive. The last paragraph quotes a local ARA member.

"I think we made our mark today and showed this city we will not stand for racism," John said. "It is so sad that it took us two deaths to get to this point, but I'm sure they (Shersty and Newborn) are smiling wherever they are right now."

As I read this last sentence, I'm feeling emotional. I'm also wondering what good our march really did. Did we accomplish anything? Did this really make the movement stronger? Did we help the Las Vegas Chapter of ARA, or just put them in the spotlight for more violence after we're gone? Does anyone who watched us on the street or on TV really care?

"Wanna refill?" The waiter is back, coffee pot in hand, smiling.

"No thanks, I gotta catch my flight." I get up from the table, but he's still standing there. "So you were here for the thing, huh?" he asks, glancing down at my chest. I realize I'm wearing my black Anti-Racist Action T-shirt, and he's talking about the march. "Yeah, I was there," I answer.

He says, "We were talking about it at work. We didn't even know there was a group like that, you know, going against prejudice here in town. I was glad somebody was standing up, you know, doing something about it."

All I could think of to say was "Thanks, man." He reaches out his hand and we shake hands, smiling. "No, thank you, man. We're proud of you," he says. He's already taking an order at the next table as I walk away.

Wow. Maybe there is hope. We're building a movement against fascism, not a flash-in-the-pan media event. Movements are built slowly, over time, one brick at a time. How ironic. Things like being in the papers and on television let people hear about us, and we reach millions. And yet, my faith in our work was not restored by the guys from *48 Hours*. It was a nice young man waiting tables at the airport who reminded me that we are much more important than we know right now.

I'm gonna wear that shirt more often.





# Anti-Gay Attitudes Lead to Anti-Gay Violence

On June 15, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said that homosexuality is "a sin" and compared it to compulsive stealing and alcoholism.

## Matthew Shepard (1977-1998)



Grieving classmates: University of Wyoming sophomores Jenny Pruitt and Tye Jordan cry at a memorial service for Matthew Shepard.



Shepard: 'A very kind and gentle soul ... a trusting person,' his parents say.

that you trivialize gay people when you trivialize our issues? Are you listening John Kasich, Bill Clinton and Trent Lott? The blood of Matthew Shepard is on your hands.

And I am angry at local politicians. They frequently say that "the time isn't right" to talk about gay issues. But the time always seems to be right for them to take gay money for their reelection campaigns! Why doesn't Ohio have a nondiscrimination law? Why doesn't Ohio's hate crime law include gay and lesbian people? Why don't city employees have domestic partnership benefits? Your inaction sends the message that gay people are "less than" other citizens. JoAnn Davidson, Greg Lashutka and Michael Coleman? The blood of Matthew Shepard is on your hands.

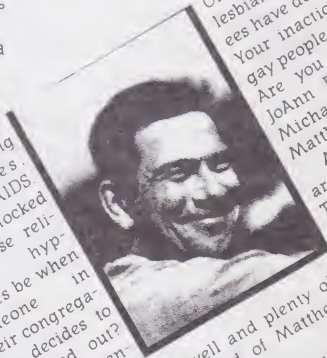
And I am angry at the people who are suppose to take care of our youth. Thank God there were four people on the Columbus school board who had the balls to speak up for the gay and lesbian youth who couldn't speak up for themselves. But where were the other three? Or all of the other school boards in central Ohio? Don't they realize that there are a lot of Matthew Shepards in their schools who need their help and protection? Are you listening David Dobos, Loretta Heard and Bill Moss? The blood of Matthew Shepard is on your hands.

And I am angry that some people are just now starting to get angry. Where was the outcry when two lesbians were shot in the back of their pickup in Oregon, or when the gay soldier was

budgeted to die in Japan, or the two lesbians were shot on the Appalachian Trail? Why does it take people so long to get angry? The blood of Matthew Shepard is on your hands.

And I am angry at celebrities who make fun of gay people. They perpetuate stereotypes. They send the message that we are unnatural and there are "less than" real human beings. Are you listening Reggie White, the Winan sisters and most comics? The blood of Matthew Shepard is on your hands.

And I am angry at the apathy in the gay community. Why will more people show up for the Red Party than show up for a memorial for a slain gay man? Why will more people spend money on beer in our bars in one weekend than they will donate to our local gay/lesbian organizations in an entire year? Why, when we have demonstrated such commitment and nobility when it comes to fighting AIDS, can't we get our act together when it is another issue that affects whether we live or die? The blood of Matthew Shepard is on our hands.



## Blood on our hands

Columbus Alive 10-22-98

by Phil Marin

I can't get Matthew Shepard out of my mind. He was the 21-year-old gay college student in Wyoming who was beaten, taken to an abandoned road, tied to a fence, had his skull bashed in with a rifle, and left to die in sub-freezing temperatures.

And every time I think of him and what he endured, I get angry. Because the blood of Matthew Shepard is not just on the hands of the two men who committed the heinous crime. His blood is on a lot of people.

I am angry at the sanctimonious religious leaders in this country who preach that gay people are not worthy of being alive. Oh, they don't say it that blatantly like "Love the sinner but hate the sin." Notice however, that the word "hate" is part of their mantra. Or they preach that God is going to kill gay people by sending hurricanes, fires and AIDS.

So how shocked can these religious hypocrites be when someone in their congregation decides to help God out? Are you listening Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and plenty of local pastors? The blood of Matthew Shepard is on your hands.

And I am angry at those gutless wonders we call national politicians. Half of them are so busy kissing the radical right's butt that they can no longer see reality while the other half have no spine and are scared of going to line bathroom without an opinion poll. Don't they realize that people are hurt by their inaction? Who gets hurt by passing a nondiscrimination law? Nobody. But plenty of people are hurt by not doing it. And don't you realize

"AT THE RISK OF SEEMING RIDICULOUS, LET ME SAY THAT THE TRUE REVOLUTIONARY IS GUIDED BY A GREAT FEELING OF LOVE. WE MUST STRIVE EVERYDAY SO THAT THIS LOVE OF LIVING HUMANITY WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO ACTUAL DEEDS, INTO ACTS THAT SERVE AS EXAMPLES, AS A MOVING FORCE."

—CHE GUEVARA, 1965.



Utah  
Salt Lake City — Spanish Fork High School teacher Wendy Weaver is seeking to dismiss a lawsuit that declares her morally unfit to teach because she is a lesbian living with her partner. Citizens of the Nebo School District for Moral and Legal Values sued Weaver, who has taught for 20 years.

Bob Jones University in South Carolina, the fundamentalist college previously found guilty of racial discrimination, is threatening to have gay alumni arrested if they set foot on campus. In an October letter, Dean of Students Jim Berg wrote to select alumni. With grief we must tell you that as long as you are living as a homosexual, you, of course, would not be welcome on our campus... Our greatest delight would be in your return to the Lord." The school also bans interracial dating.



Suspects: Russell Henderson, Aaron McKinney





Just 5-foot-2 and 105 pounds as an adult, Shepard "is physically short in stature," his parents added, "but we believe he is a giant when it comes to respecting the worth of others."

Best friend Alex Trout, who grew up with Shepard in Casper, Wyo., says Shepard had told him just a few days ago how safe he felt in Laramie. "He felt like it was home," Trout, 21, says of Shepard.



denouncing the murder of homosexuals in such a way that it received even one-thousandth of the coverage his and his church's attacks on homosexuals routinely receive, this would be an act of decency the Pope can't afford, for the Pope knows: Behind this one murdered kid stand legions of kids whose lives are scarred by the bigotry this Pope defends as sanctioned by God. None of these kids will ever be allowed to marry the person she or he loves, not while the Pope and his church can prevent it; all of these kids are told, by the Holy Catholic Church, and by the Episcopalians and Lutherans and Baptists and Orthodox Jews: Your love is cursed by God. To speak out against murdering those who are discriminated against is to speak out against discrimination. To remain silent is to endorse murder.

## Music for Matthew

When the story broke about the torture-murder of Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard, the song "Tony" immediately began to play in my mind.

"Tony," from the year's best and most underrated album *Flaming Red* by Patty Griffin, is about the kid who sat in front of Griffin in high school. A fat gay kid—nothing like Matthew Shepard who was handsome and seemed to like himself well enough. But as Griffin now recognizes, people have a lot of unsuspected things in common.

When Griffin finds out years later that Tony has committed suicide—"They wrote it in the local rag/Death comes to the local fag"—she knows that it's this false but all too tangible separation that drove him to it. "I guess you finally stopped believin' that any hope would ever find you/I knew that story, I was sitting right behind you."

Griffin is a social critic, peppering her new album with scathing criticisms of religion, particularly Catholicism. But she's not looking for sensationalized headlines. Tony and the Pope appear in her songs because they have a relationship to her biggest theme, which is searching for "One Big Love," to use the title of *Flaming Red*'s other blockbuster tune.

That's why Patty Griffin reminds me of John Lennon. He had to surrender the notion that all we need is love, but refused to give up his belief that love heals. Both Lennon and Griffin blow right past stuff like "hate crime" laws. They're interested in something more important: Love as the antidote to hate, and to the loneliness and fear that generate it. Love, whose absence leaves all of us to bear some awful burdens.

In a song called "Goodbye," Griffin reacts to the death of a friend in a voice that's black and blue with ache. "I wonder where you are/And if the pain ends when you die," makes me think of Matthew Shepard. But then she adds words that better apply to the pathetic young men who killed him, and ruined their lives along with his: "Cause you can't make somebody see/With the simple words you say/All the beauty from within/Sometimes they just look away."

I don't know if Patty Griffin explains anything in those words. But that image of looking away-away from their victim's humanity, away from their own-offers a pretty good clue to what did and didn't go through the minds of Shepard's murderers.

One reason why I'm interested in politics but in love with music is that our great songs, and great songwriters, won't let us look away from such horrors even while they continually try to ease the pain of what we see. Right now, Patty Griffin sounds like someone with x-ray vision.

5

Adapted from an article by David Marsh (Rock & Rap Confidential, October '98. Write for RRC at Box 341305, Los Angeles, CA 90034. Rockrap@aol.com. <http://www.rockrap.com/rockrap>)



Peggy Thomas of Ft. Collins, Colo., and her daughter Olivia attend a candlelight vigil for Matthew Shepard outside Poudre Valley in Ft. Collins on Saturday.

19 states make it a crime for people to have consensual oral or anal sex, even if behind closed doors at home. On November 6, in Houston, deputy Sheriff's responding to a false report of an intruder walked in on two men having sex in their home. Both were arrested for "homosexual conduct" and jailed.

Last February, Stockton (Mo.) High School band leader Marvin Manning arranged for the school band to perform at a Main Street parade at Walt Disney World. The trip was canceled after members of the anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church protested, saying Disney "condones homosexuality." The kids in the band, and many of their parents, were really pissed. "I thought it was a bunch of bull," said freshman flutist Danielle Dotson, who was near tears after the cancellation was announced.



Bob Eberhard waves a Gay Pride flag during a candlelight vigil at the Statehouse in memory of Matthew Shepard.

James D. DeCamp / Dispatch



# Who's Really Sick?

Full page ads ran recently in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *USA Today*, claiming that homosexuals can "overcome" their sexual identity and be "cured" by "accepting God." The ads were paid for by anonymous private donors and featured people who claimed to be ex-gays.

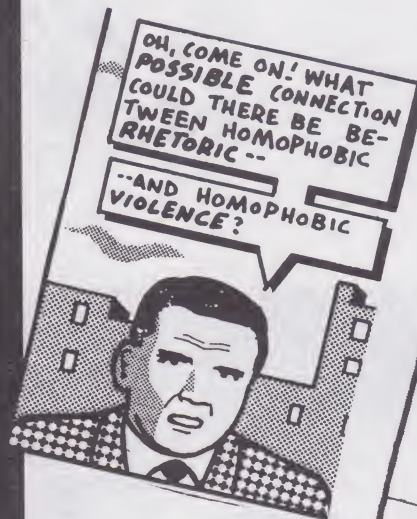
The growing prominence of the tiny "ex-gay" movement is the result of a shift in strategy by the Christian right. The claim that gay people can be "cured" is just the new packaging of an old bigoted message. In the face of growing public support for gay rights and an increasing distaste for hateful rhetoric, the anti-gay movement is hiding behind a mask of false compassion for "the poor queers." The goal is the same: to impose their rigid, puritanical views on the entire culture. And one of their beliefs is that gays, lesbians, bisexual people are "bad," not as good as "us," "immoral."

There's a terrific new 30 page report out on this topic. It's called *Calculated Compassion: How the Ex-Gay Movement Serves the Right's Attack on Democracy*. You can get it from Political Research Associates, 120 Beacon St., Somerville, MA 02143; publiceye@iqc.apc.org; <www.publiceye.org>.

And remember: Homophobia is a certified mental illness. Gayness is not. The only "cure" for sexual orientation is ending prejudice.

A parental pamphlet on coping with marijuana use by kids, written by a Utah criminology professor and recommended by U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch, identifies as a warning sign of dope use "excessive preoccupation with social issues, race relations, environmental issues, etc." (Also mentioned, according to an October *Washington Post* report, were more traditional telltale signs such as staying out all night, needing more money and showing interest "in Ras Tafari religion.")

--TO WHICH WE CAN ONLY SAY: TELL IT TO MATTHEW SHEPARD'S FAMILY.



5-28  
A Sacramento "gangsta" rapper was jailed Tuesday after police complained that the lyrics on his album promote a gang lifestyle and are anti-law enforcement. Shawn Thomas, who performs as C-BO, was charged with violating a parole agreement not to espouse criminal behavior.



## CULTURE HYPOCRITES

Here's a few things to think about when you hear people blame society's problems on rap, hardcore or heavy metal music.

1. In the 80's, Tipper Gore attacked rapper Ice-T for singing a song about pleasuring a young woman with a flashlight. In 1997, Bill Clinton actually pleased a young female employee with a cigar. Tipper hasn't said a word about it, and her husband (vice president Al Gore) has applauded the "courage" of his boss. Where's your outrage, Tipper? Could you at least tell your husband to shut up?
2. Would-be censors are always trying to ban hip-hop and metal music because (they claim) it's a "bad" influence on the listeners. They point to some violence after a Public Enemy concert, or by some kid who listened to a Metallica record. This summer a Tennessee man, who smothered his baby daughter because she cried while he was watching a Garth Brooks concert on t.v., was given ten years in prison. So far, no one has recommended banning Garth Brooks or country music because of this crime.
3. A major figure of American popular music died this year. The press did not focus on his gang associates, his drug habits, the role of prostitution money in starting his career, his vicious anti-woman attitudes, or even the artistically lousy records he made at the end. Instead, the coverage was about the great music he made, the powerful effect it had on musical tastes, his innovations as a singer, his loyalty to his friends. Frank Sinatra deserved all that. He was a great singer. But to treat Snoop Doggy Dog and Tupac by different standards is racist and hypocritical. When Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones dies, I know his life will be seen in most obituaries through the lens of his addictions. And when James Brown, a titan whose achievements humble Sinatra, dies, the media will talk as much about his prison record as his mind-boggling contribution to music.

SO LET'S BE FAIR.







Walk together, rock together.



# SKA Against Racism

Last year's "Ska Against Racism" tour was probably the largest, most successful explicitly anti-racist music tour in the history of North America. With great bands and a great vibe, we hit more than 35 cities, drawing over 1200 people a night. The tour included The Toasters, Less Than Jake, Five Iron Frenzy, Kemuri, the Blue Meanies, Reel Big Fish, MU330, Mustard Plug

and Mike "Bruce Lee" Park. What can ska music do to build the anti-racist movement? "I think that anything that makes you think about the issue of racism in America is worth doing," offers Rob "Bucket" Hingley of the Toasters. "Anything that makes people get off their ass is good. In a lot of places in the country, this tour is very controversial. And that's a

shame, but it's reality." The crowds were mostly very young. And mostly white. Asked about this by New Music magazine, Mike Park explained. "It's wrong to say that because your crowd is mostly white you can't have a Ska Against Racism concert. It's getting the idea—against racism—out there. Having it on a flyer and on the radio just emphasizes the fact

that we're against it. And ska music should be against racism." There were a few threats from nazi bonehead idiots to picket or disrupt one of the shows, but the whole tour went off without any such problems.

Thanks to the bands, the drivers, the crews, the people at the venues, "the road warrior" (Tad), Rick Bonde and the Tahoe Agency, Mike Park and Asian Man Records, and most importantly all of you anti-racist music fans. We can make a better world.



COMING IN  
THE SPRING OF '99

## THE STOP RACISM TOUR

Bigger, Stronger, and More Fun Than Ever... You Be There!



The ska kids are alright.



Sean Lennon believes the government was behind the slaying of his father, **John Lennon**. "He was a countercultural revolutionary, and the government takes that kind of (stuff) really seriously, historically," the 22-year-old Lennon told *The New Yorker*. Lennon said anyone who believes **Mark Chapman** was "just some crazy guy who killed my dad for his personal interests is insane, I think, or very naïve, or hasn't thought about it clearly."

### Idaho

3.6.98  
Nampa — Beer will be sold at Sunday's **Megadeth** concert at the Idaho Center, although some city council members wanted the beverage banned. Councilor Tom Dale said he wants to ban heavy-metal acts like Megadeth altogether because they promote unlawful and indecent activity.

■ A free high school concert by the Grammy-winning **Indigo Girls** has been canceled after parents complained about the lesbian duo. The May 7 concert at Irmo High School in Columbia, S.C., by **Amy Ray** and **Emily Saliers** was canceled by Principal **Gerald Witt**. Some complained about the sexuality of the group, while others complained about having a rock concert during school hours. The group had agreed to play for a half-hour as part of a talent show arranged by the school newspaper. 5.1.98

"If there is no struggle,  
there is no progress."



Our father who are in heaven  
Stay there  
And we will stay on earth  
Which is sometimes so pretty  
— Jacques Prévert



# Radio Sucks!

## SEIZE THE AIRWAVES

Turn on your radio. Go ahead. Spin the dial, run through station after station, and see if you find anything that's, well, different. It's not likely. Basically, radio sucks.

The "public airwaves" aren't very public anymore. They're the exclusive domain of wealthy corporations. They spew out the canned "news" and narrow music playlists of the radio billionaires. And the saddest part isn't the crap we hear. It's all the different, interesting stuff we don't hear. Think about how cool listening to the radio could be. Turning the dial could be a real adventure, but it's not. Fortunately, some people have jumped into this terrible, underdemocratic vacuum.

### Kind Radio

Mario Hernandez used to be just a college student in San Marcos, Texas. Now he's also a radio DJ. Last year Hernandez walked down the street with his mother to pick up a prize she'd won from a radio station operating out of a neighborhood house. Ten minutes later the 23 year-old Hernandez, without a single second of on-air experience, walked out of the house a disc jockey.

Today, Hernandez' two-hour show "The San Marcos Hip Hop connection" airs every Tuesday night, serving a mostly young audience in this central Texas town of 30,000. He's on Kind Radio, one of over a thousand micro-radio stations across the country operating with very low frequency and serving very small listening areas. Kind Radio can be heard only in San Marcos.

The Micro Radio Movement has grown in the U.S. and all across the world as a grass roots response to corporate radio. These stations, most of them commercial-free, serve as platforms for views and music that are rarely allowed on the air by commercial stations. They are an antidote to a radio industry so consolidated that many smaller communities no longer have radio stations to serve their needs. In addition to Hernandez' show, Kind Radio offers local news and interviews with local officials, commentary from regular working people, a feminist report ("The Estrogen Hour of Power") and gay and lesbian programming. In all, about 75 people are involved in keeping the station on the air 24 hours a day. Granted, some of the programming is goofy

(a debate about whether hippies created the Beatles or the Beatles created hippies, for example) but that's not the point. The local community is being served.

### Little Criminals

Predictably, the government has taken the side of the giant radio bullies. They have labeled Mario Hernandez and the others in the Micro Radio Movement as criminals. These radio police work for the Federal Communications Commission—the "FCC." Since 1979, the FCC has decreed that small radio stations are illegal. No station can get a license to operate at a broadcast power of less than 100 watts. The required testing, legal work and hardware expenses for a typical new radio station can be half a million dollars. Only the rich can play, says the FCC

What if there was a "Federal Newspaper Commission" that said in the name of efficiency, and to save paper and ink, only newspapers of 500,000 or more circulation would be legal? All homemade leaflets, rants, fanzines, church newsletters, school bulletins and local alternative papers would be banned. The *Anti-Racist News* would be illegal. That's the situation in radio broadcasting.

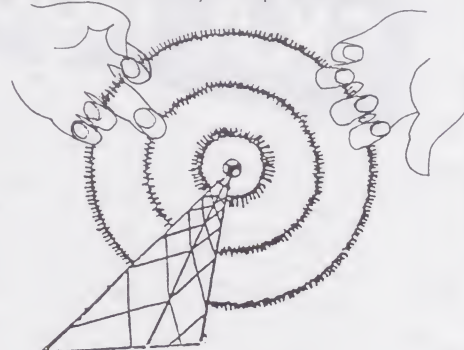
The FCC has abandoned any pretense that radio should serve the community. Rules were recently changed to allow corporate stations to set up their broadcast studios as far as 25 miles away from the city where they're licensed. Compare this to the neighborhood micro stations in Cleveland, which received overwhelming response when they broadcast 17 year-old Felix Feliciano's need for a bone marrow donor.

But the big boys wanna crush even the tiniest threats to their monopoly. Fifteen unlicensed radio stations in Miami were shut down by the FCC during the last week of July, just a few weeks after raids on Iowa City Free Radio, Radio Mutiny in Philadelphia, and a little station in Tioga, North Dakota.

Since the carnage in Miami, other victims have included Radio Free Ashville (N.C.), Radio Free Oxon Hill (in D.C.) and a loose network of five Spanish-language stations in Cleveland that used over 100 dif-

ferent DJs to broadcast around the clock. Since 1996, a total of 255 micro stations have been silenced by the FCC. Stations like Free Radio Berkeley and San Francisco Liberation Radio have gone off the air to avoid inevitable busts. And the feds defend their use of guns in these government raids.

Micro station operators have put forward very reasonable proposals to legalize low-power radio. The government has refused to consider any compromise



### A Little History

Starting in the 80's with Mbanna Kantako, an unemployed black man living in a housing project in southern Illinois, the Micro Radio Movement has grown quickly in the U.S. The variety of these micro-stations is truly amazing. Every one is unique and serves its own local needs. For example, Korean communities in Washington and Oregon have responded to the absence of Korean language broadcasts by setting up their own non-licensed stations.

Since Free Radio Berkeley went on the air in 1993, there have been annual conferences of micro broadcasters, each one larger than the last. This summer, hundreds of so-called "pirate radio" broadcasters met in both Las Vegas and Philadelphia to build the movement. And the growth of democratic radio is not limited to the U.S., it's worldwide. There are thousands of low-power stations in Japan, where it's legal. Unlicensed radio is common throughout Mexico, and an important communications link for activists in places like Chiapas. In Brazil, about two-thirds of that country's 11,000 radio stations are unlicensed. In England, there have been 1250 government raids on pirate stations in the past 18 months.

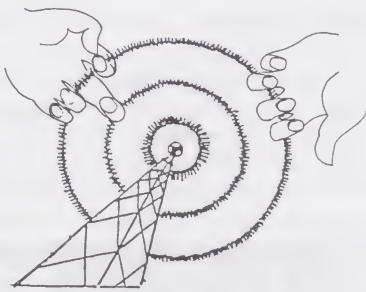


## Radio Sucks!, continued

At the same time that free radio has exploded, control of commercial radio has become tighter and tighter. In the past three years, radio has been transformed from a corporate mom-and-pop industry into one controlled by a few giants. In October, millionaire Sam Zell sold his Jacor Communications to Clear Channel Communications, Inc. for about \$4.4 billion! This combination creates the second-largest radio group in the U.S., with 454 stations in 101 cities. In some places this conglomerate owns as many as eight different stations in the same city! In addition to radio stations, this company owns television stations, and the nation's biggest billboard advertising outfit. They also distribute right-wing buffoon Rush Limbaugh's show.

The rich are not in the radio business to serve the community. These giant broadcasting chains created by Bill Clinton's "Telecom law" are about profit, specifically advertising revenues. CBS Radio President Dan Mason recently predicted that the current average of 12 radio commercials per hour may soon jump to over 15 per hour.

Stations self-censor anything that might offend corporate interests. Beth Clements, morning drive-time host for KKFM/Colorado Springs, recently found out what happens when you threaten those ad dollars. Clements criticized Taco Bell's policy of charging extra to substitute beans for beef in their products. She said it was unfair to vegetarians. Taco Bell threatened to pull its ads from the station and Clements was fired.



### Back to San Marcos

This brings us back to Mario Hernandez and San Marcos, Texas. So far, Kind Radio is still on the air. Local bureaucrats have tried to shut it down, claiming a zoning violation because the station operates out of a garage in a residential neighborhood. But the station convinced a local jury that this was no more than a hobby, like a gardener who shares his bounty with his neighbors. The jury refused to shut it down.

Three programmers from Kind Radio ran for office in the recent city elections. They all lost, but they threw the elections into a run-off. Two city council members and the mayor won seats after they came out in favor of the station. Kind Radio now has the support of the city in any future FCC battles.

This is a glimpse into the future. Entprising voices of free expression will find ways to get on the air. These stations will be popular because they are made up of local people and they serve the needs of their communities. Those who enjoy these stations and benefit from them will fight to keep them. In the end, the government's expensive battle to silence micro radio is a battle it cannot win.

"Democracy" is not an idea or something to "believe in." It's something you do. If you don't do it, then you don't have it. Micro radio is democracy in action. If we want to build a society that's not based on corporate values of competition, materialism and power, then we need radio stations that aren't controlled by the wealthy. Let's put the "free" back in Free Speech. Defend the Micro Radio Movement. Better yet, get involved. Here's some places you can contact:

Free Radio Berkeley, 1442-A Walnut Street, #406 Berkeley, CA 94707  
(510) 464-3041

Peace & Justice Radio Project/AFSC  
59 E. Van Buren Street, #1400  
Chicago, IL 60605, (312) 427-2533

Napoleon Williams  
c/o Black Liberation Radio East  
629 East Center, Decatur, IL 62526  
(217) 527-1283

National Lawyers Guild--Democratic Communications Committee, c/o Peter Frank, 333 Market Street, Suite 2300  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Mbanna Kantako  
Human Rights Radio  
7192 N. 6th Street  
Springfield, IL 62702

**COURTHOUSE DEATH:** A 19-year-old man distraught over a prison sentence offered in exchange for his guilty plea in a drug case jumped through a courthouse window and fell 16 stories to his death. "I'm 19 years old, your honor. That is terrible," Derrick Smith told State Supreme Court Justice Budd Goodman. Smith was charged with possession of marijuana and had been offered three to six years in prison. 10-30

## IT'S THE LAW

### California 10-2-93

**Los Angeles** — California's prison system is the only one in the nation to use deadly force to break up fights between inmates, the Los Angeles Times reported. Twelve prisoners have been shot to death and 32 wounded by guards armed with assault rifles since late '94, when the Department of Corrections first came under fire for deaths behind bars, the newspaper said. Lawsuits over the deaths have cost the state \$6 million.

### Houston

**6 officers are fired after man is killed in botched drug raid**

Six police officers were fired yesterday for their involvement in the fatal shooting of a man during a botched drug raid. Pedro Oregon, 22, was shot to death July 12 after the officers, acting on an informant's tip, stormed his apartment in search of drugs. Police fired 33 bullets, hitting Oregon a dozen times, including nine times in the back.

No drugs were found in the apartment, and the officers later said they started firing because they thought Oregon had fired at them. Instead,

the shot that hit an officer's bullet-proof vest was fired by another officer.



### California 6-9-93

**Berkeley** — The city is considering changing its '93 anti-nudity ordinance to reduce violations from a misdemeanor to a simple infraction. So far, the city has not been able to persuade a jury to convict anyone for violating the ordinance.

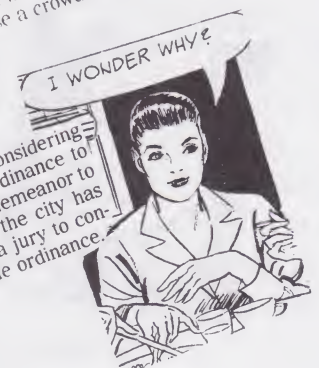
### Washington 8-28-93

**Olympia** — The state Supreme Court ruled that police must first inform citizens they have the right to refuse a warrantless search of their homes before entering the premises. Residents also have the right to revoke at any time the consent they gave.

### Oio 5-12-93

**Columbus** — Gov. Voinovich signed a bill into law that will make it a crime to belong to a gang and will create stiffer penalties for crimes committed by gang members. The state reportedly has 17,000 gang members.

**Oregon 11-20-93**  
**Portland** — Police Chief Charles Moose says his officers will keep using shotguns loaded with beanbags as a crowd-control method even though they pack the punch of a line-drive baseball. A black citizens committee is outraged that the weapons were used to disperse a crowd on Aug. 17.

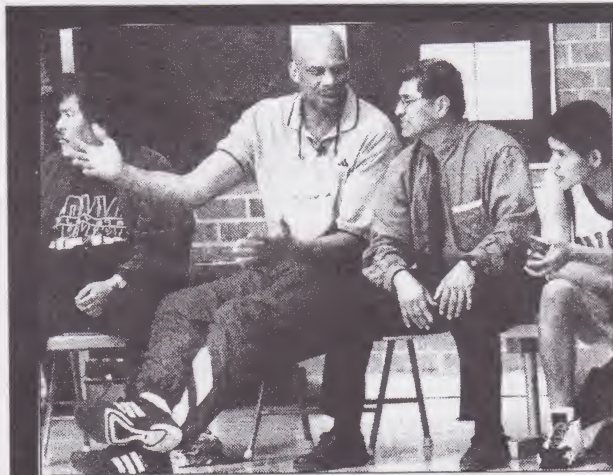




# Where Are They Now?

**Bobby Rush** — The former Black Panther leader is now a Congressman from Chicago. He has announced plans to run against Chicago Mayor Daley in the February ('99) election. Rush has attacked Daley for neglecting black residents and helping the rich downtown developers. He points out that poor and working people are being hurt by public transportation cutbacks, a poorly funded school system and chronic police brutality.

**Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** — Former NBA great, Kareem is the new assistant basketball coach at Alchesay High School in the heart of the Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona. He gets \$1 a year for the job. He's never been happier. Alchesay High serves the entire reservation. Some kids are bussed as far as 60 miles each day. Abdul-Jabbar says the kids remind him of black kids he grew up with in New York City: "A lot of Native Americans have a contempt for education because it comes from the dominant culture and anyone seen embracing education is seen as selling out. That does not have to be the case. Knowledge is power. If you go to any barrio or inner-city ghetto or even Appalachia, you find some of the same problems that you find here—lack of economic opportunity, unemployment, poverty. They have very negative impacts on kids."



By Shara R. Wells, Tucson Citizen via AP

Adapting: Abdul-Jabbar with Alchesay coach Raul Mendoza.  
**Abdul-Jabbar loves coaching kids**

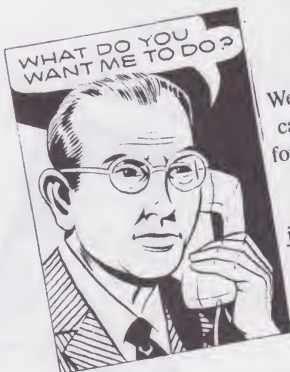
**Rodney King** — In 1991, TV news aired footage of four LA police officers stomping, kicking, and electrocuting a cowering motorist lying on the ground. The victim, Rodney King, went into a long media seclusion. He recently emerged. Drawing from his \$3.8 million settlement with the City of Los Angeles, he has launched his own music label. He's also taken up surfing and skiing, and continues to try and spread his message of unity among the races. And he continues to get hassled by the cops. He was stopped once while jogging, on suspicion of purse snatching. And at his first record release party, police helicopters hovered overhead, ordering people to "go home!" Can't we all just get along



## We Are Everywhere

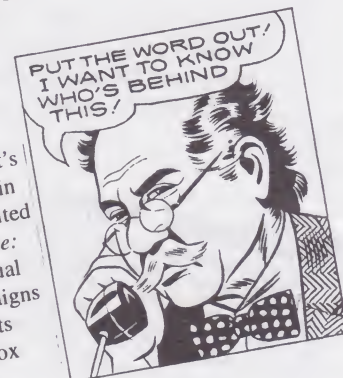
On Monday, October 19, the Jenny Jones television talk show was called "People Obsessed with Body Parts." One of the people featured was a black man who had this huge fetish for feet and toes. During the interview he told Jenny he wanted to play her a "foot song" he had written. As the audience laughed and applauded he pulled out his guitar. On the front of it was a big, round, red "Stop Racism" sticker!! Wow. Fetishists Against Prejudice.

*It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit.*  
— A John Wooden saying



## Men in the Shadows

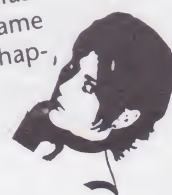
We got a copy of a new report on the behind-the-scenes heavies who fund right-wing projects. It's called *The Feeding Trough*. The main focus of the report is the Bradley Foundation, a Wisconsin foundation that is probably the largest sponsor of right-wing propaganda and projects in the United States. Its assets are over \$420 million. Bradley money funded the racist book *The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life*, which once again argued the old intellectual justification for being prejudiced. Bradley money has fueled the anti-affirmative action campaigns in California and across the country. This is a really interesting report that helps us activists understand how the other side works. Get a copy from A Job is a Right Campaign, P.O. Box 06053, Milwaukee, WI 53206; (414) 374-1034; <ajrc@execpc.com>.



The nation's largest corporations and richest citizens receive more welfare money than our social welfare program. In 1994, the United States spent \$104.3 billion on corporate welfare and \$619 billion on the military, while spending only \$14.4 billion on social welfare programs. Federal aid to corporations and wealthy individuals includes bailouts, export promotions, loans, loan guarantees, debt forgiveness, below cost sales, interest free financing and other benefits.

The government would like you to believe it is running out of money for social welfare and it "needs" to be cut. That just isn't true!

**FASCISM** Fascism, far from being an aberration of mass psychology, arose from the specific conditions of a social system in crisis. At first covertly, then increasingly in the open, layers of big business (like Volkswagen and I.G. Farben) financed and promoted the fascist movements in Italy and Germany. The same causes that drove Italian and German rich people to help bring fascism to power could produce the same effects in other places. It could happen here.







#### ARA NYLON JACKET

black jacket with white ink  
has ara logo on front light  
lining with pockets  
SIZES: L / XL / XXL

#### ARA JACKET TEE

black tee with white ink  
has ara logo on front  
and back same as jacket  
SIZES: L / XL / XXL



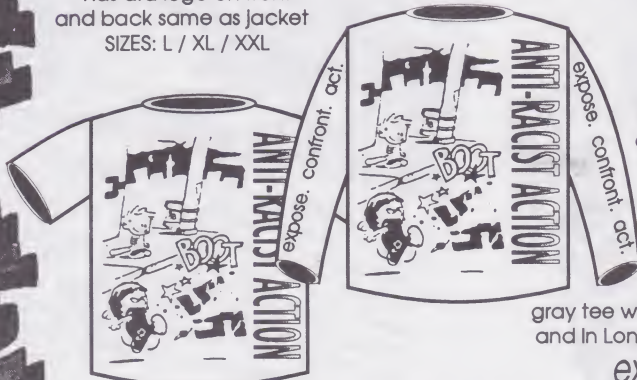
#### FOLLOW YOUR LEADER

comes on natural colored tee  
with black ink and red brains  
SIZES: M / L / XL / XXL



#### NICE & CLEAN

black tee w/ white and red print  
SIZES: M / L / XL / XXL



#### ARA CLASSIC

gray tee with black ink swirled to red at lettering  
and in Long Sleeve with sleeve print in red, says  
*expose. confront. act.*

SIZES: S / M / L / XL / XXL



#### STOP THE HATE

this one comes on a black tee  
with red white printing and  
a red anti-symbol  
SIZES: M / L / XL / XXL  
and in Long Sleeve  
SIZES: L / XL / XXL

[www.positive-youth.com](http://www.positive-youth.com)

write for our FREE full-sized catalog of buttons, stickers, patches, and more

pob 64 greencastle, pa 17225

for more info. questions about ordering  
or to place a credit card order  
call: 717.597.9065 or [attitude@cpix.net](mailto:attitude@cpix.net)

#### ORDERING INFO:

TO ORDER mail check, money order or well concealed cash to: (payable to ATTITUDE)

short-sleeves-\$13 long-sleeves-\$16 (only if listed) jacket- \$28 XXL please add- \$1 pre item

all prices include postage via USPS for priority mail add- \$3 or we will ship cheapest ground allow 2 - 3 weeks for delivery on all orders

San Bruno • Jan. 18, 1998

A swastika was painted at a Jewish  
woman's residence.

## REAL HEROES: THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS

On November 10, 1939, the Nazis destroyed or looted thousands of Jewish homes, synagogues and businesses in Austria and Germany. Hundreds of Jewish people were murdered. More than 20,000 Jews were seized and sent to concentration camps.

One American eyewitness reported that "Jewish dwellings were smashed into and the contents demolished or looted. In one of the Jewish sections, an eighteen year-old boy was hurled from a third story window to land with both legs broken on a street littered with burning beds and other household furniture. Jewish shop windows by the hundreds were systematically and wantonly smashed at a loss of several million marks.

This was executed by SS men and Storm Troopers, not in uniform, each

**REMEMBER KRISTALLNACHT.  
NEVER AGAIN.**

That night came to be known as Kristallnacht (the "Night of Broken Glass"). Recently, the 60th anniversary passed. This caused Harry Klein, a concentration camp survivor living in Ohio, to write a column reminding us of little known hero Herschel Grynszpan.

Living in Paris at the time of Kristallnacht, Herschel Grynszpan received news that his entire family back in Germany had been rounded up by the Nazis, beaten with whips and deported to Poland. He was devastated. This seventeen year-old Jew-

ish boy got a gun, walked into the German embassy in Paris and shot the first Nazi official he came upon.

Arrested by the Paris police, Grynszpan said he had acted "because of love for my parents and for my people who were subjected unjustly to outrageous treatment. It is not, after all, a crime to be Jewish. I am not a dog. I have a right to live. My people have a right to live on this Earth." He continued to proudly assert his right to stand up to anti-semitism throughout the court proceedings in France. It is believed he later died in a concentration camp.

Herschel Grynszpan is not famous. Neither are most of the people who have stood up to the fascists. But while so-called leaders—generals, politicians, big shots—take credit for things, millions of regular people are the ones who actually change the world. Real heroes, like Herschel Grynszpan.

#### CALIFORNIA

Castro Valley • Feb. 27, 1998

Copies of a white supremacist publication, *The Truth At Last*, were sent to a Jewish woman's residence.

Eden • March 1998

Anti-Semitic slurs allegedly were yelled at two Jewish girls.

San Diego • February 1998

Racist and anti-Semitic cartoons were found in food packages at a grocery store.

#### COLORADO

Fort Collins • Jan. 28, 1998

A synagogue was vandalized.





## NUCLEAR PROTEST IN GERMANY



Police try to remove a demonstrator blocking the main gate of a nuclear waste facility in Neckarwestheim, Germany. Some 400 people demonstrated yesterday against Germany's nuclear energy policy and the transport of three containers loaded with spent nuclear fuel elements to Ahaus in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

3-20-99 Associated Press

## Indian protesters destroy smoke shops



By Michael Okoniewski, AP

**Shops destroyed:** Onondaga Indian teen-ager Gina Jermerson salvages cartons of cigarettes from the Drive Thru Cigarettes smoke shop on the tribe's lands near Syracuse, N.Y. Tribal protesters opposed to what they view as unlicensed smoke shops, burned or bulldozed four stores on nation lands, officials said. Earlier in the day the tribe had ordered the shops closed for permit violations and failure to pay taxes. 3-3-99

## Animal group protests experiments



By Paul Sakuma, AP

**Monkey controversy:** Emma Clifford and other members of In Defense of Animals wear monkey masks in a cage Thursday during a rally at the University of California, San Francisco. The demonstrators are protesting the use of monkeys in sound-blast experiments on hearing loss. UCSF says the monkeys feel no pain.

## Rosa Parks celebrates 85th birthday



By Alan Mothner, AP

**A legend honored:** Martin Luther King III kisses civil rights legend Rosa Parks during her 85th birthday party in Atlanta. Joining in the celebration was Ramia Finley. Parks' refusal to give up her seat to whites precipitated the 1955 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott.

2-5-99

## Massachusetts

**1-21-98**  
Boston — Parents led hundreds of disabled children into the Statehouse in hopes of convincing lawmakers to keep the state's special education program intact. Some lawmakers want to scale back the program, which costs Massachusetts \$1 billion a year.



Associated Press

**An unidentified demonstrator wears anti-right stickers during a protest.**





## New Hampshire

9.13.98  
Dublin — Doris Haddock, 88, is so fed up with the influence of big money in politics she plans to walk across the country in protest. Her trek will start on the West Coast in late December.

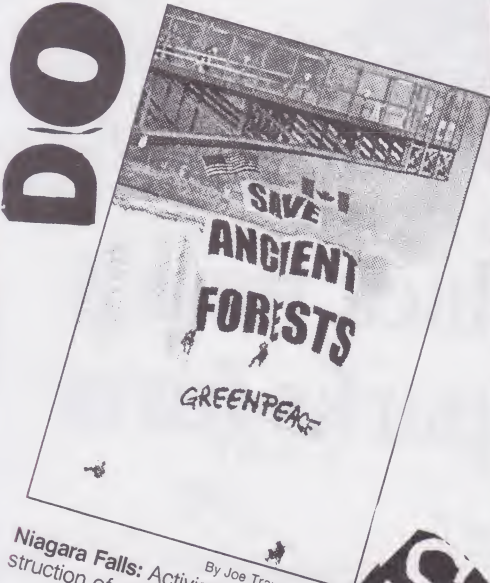
## COLOMBIAN LABOR PROTEST



Associated Press

4.28.98  
Gilberto Tovar spends his second day attached to a cross as a protest in a labor dispute with the mayor in the central Colombian town of Cartago.

Tovar, 48, and two other men allowed co-workers to pound small nails into their hands. The town is 185 miles southwest of Bogota, the capital.



Niagara Falls: Activists protest destruction of old-growth forests.  
By Joe Traver, Reuters

## Americans lending a hand to Iraqi people



Humanitarian aid: Malik Rahim, a U.S. physician in Iraq with 82 Americans from U.S. humanitarian aid organizations, holds a sick child Sunday at Baghdad's Saddam Hospital for Children. The United Nations imposed economic sanctions against Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.  
5.11.98 By Karim Sahib, Agence France-Presse



By Richard Drew, AP

Up to 30,000 protest: New York City police struggle to subdue a protester, left, during a union rally Tuesday.  
7.1.99

## Workers' protest cripples Manhattan business, traffic

An unruly protest that pitted tens of thousands of construction workers against police in riot gear shut down midtown Manhattan Tuesday, crippling business and traffic for hours. Thirty-three people were arrested and 31 were injured, including 18 police officers, officials said.

The protesting workers, estimated at as many as 30,000, were upset about the award of a \$33 million transit contract to a nonunion company. A city transit spokesman said the law requires selection of the lowest bidder. But officials at the Construction Industry Partnership for the 21st Century, representing more than 100,000 workers and 1,000 contractors, said they would sue the Metropolitan Transportation Authority if the nonunion company is not removed.

**HOLOCAUST SUIT:** The man who lost his job as a security guard at a Swiss bank after rescuing Holocaust-era records from a shredder sued the bank for more than \$2.5 billion in a New York state court. He says he and his family had been forced to flee Switzerland due to death threats. Christoph Meili asked for \$60 million in compensatory damages and up to \$2.5 billion in punitive damages from Union Bank of Switzerland. "They have driven us from our country," Meili said outside the bank's New York offices. He said he would turn over any punitive damages to the Swiss people. The bank denied it had anything to do with Meili's losing his job and said it had offered to help him rebuild his life.  
1.15.98

**Oregon**  
4.10.98  
Gresham — Teens are seeking to build a political power base here, Robert Fisher, 19, is running unopposed for City Council. Robert Banning, 18, is in the mayor's race.

things.

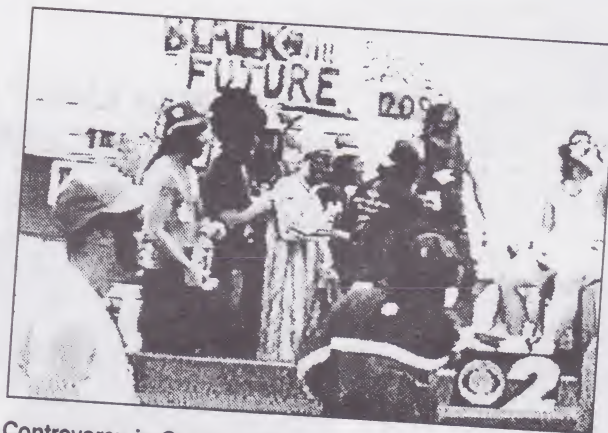




PERSONALLY, I  
FIND THAT HARD  
TO BELIEVE.

**AD DRAWS APOLOGY:** Ad agency Leo Burnett Bangkok has apologized for using Hitler's image to sell potato chips in Thailand and on Monday was talking with chipmaker Food Processing about pulling the ads. A TV commercial for "X" potato chips shows Hitler giving a Nazi salute and a shot of a swastika transformed into the "X" product logo. Posters suggest that eating the snacks would transform even Hitler himself into a fun-loving character.

Bad Dog.



**Controversy in Queens:** This float in a Labor Day parade re-enacted the dragging death of a black man.

WCBS via AP

CAN'T YOU  
SEE IT? THE DECLINE  
OF WESTERN  
CIVILIZATION IS  
AT HAND!!



# Float depicting black man's dragging death sparks furor

9.11.99

**Michigan**  
4.21.99

**Detroit** — A nursing supervisor erred in posting a note in the nurses' break room asking black personnel to stay out of a 90-year-old patient's room at Grace-Sinai Hospital, officials said. The man's family requested the message, saying the man is senile and fears black people, the Detroit Free Press reported.

**Mississippi**  
3.20.99

**Jackson** — Even Elvis Presley made it into the secret files of the state's segregationist spy agency, which were unsealed this week. An unnamed Sovereignty Commission informant reported that Elvis was invited by the town of Fayetteville to benefit civic causes. Elvis did not appear.

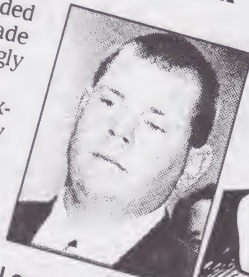
**South Carolina**  
2.6.98

**Columbia** — The Republican-controlled House OK'd a plan to ask voters if an interracial marriage ban should stay in the state constitution. The question could go to voters in November. **WHAT???**

## NYC officer sues over suspension

A New York City police officer has sued the city after being suspended for appearing on a Labor Day parade float whose participants mockingly re-enacted a racist killing.

Joseph Locurto claims he was exercising his right to free speech by participating in the parade. About a dozen men wearing blackface make-up appeared on the float during the Sept. 7 parade in a predominantly white section of Queens. The float featured a banner reading, "Black to the Future 2098," and some participants performed a re-enactment of the June killing of a black man who was chained to a pickup in rural Texas and dragged to his death. Locurto, an officer since 1994, has apologized for his participation.



**Locurto:** Float re-enacted killing  
9.16.98



WCBS via AP

**Dragging depicted:** Designers say float meant to be humorous.

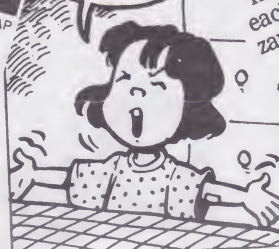
style and dreadlock wigs, riding on or marching in Jasper, green pickup truck. The float featured a float called "Black to the Future 2098." One of the men clings to the rear bumper and is dragged slowly along the parade route. Three white men have been charged in his death in Jasper, Texas.

In recent years, it has featured a float called "Hasidic Park" — a takeoff on the movie Jurassic Park — showing men dressed as Hasidic Jews. Another year, a float called "Happy Gays" featured men dressed as women flirting with each other. Another year, a float was called "Gooks of Hazard." Four men told WNYW-TV that they were responsible for the float but that they intended for it to be humorous and meant no harm. "This float had no malicious intent at all," Teddy Rauert said. "We are extremely sorry, extremely, if we offended anybody." The volunteer fire department was not commenting on the controversial float.

"ISN'T  
PREJUDICE  
WIERD?"  
DEPT.



HE'S  
THE  
PITS!



YEAH.



WHOA!

FLING





IT'S SO ORWELLIAN!

## Truth Panel Is Told of Bacterial Warfare

**CAPE TOWN, South Africa**—The former apartheid government investigated the possibility of developing a bacteria that would selectively kill or injure black people but leave white people unharmed, a scientist said. Addressing a hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Daan Goosen described a search for an unnamed European scientist alleged to know about a bacteria that would harm only blacks.

The information came from the military attache at the South African Embassy in London in 1983 or 1984, Goosen said. His research led him to believe it could be a feasible project, Goosen said, but he backed out of a planned trip to London to find the scientist because he feared it could be a trap. He conducted the research on orders from Wouter Basson, an army physician who set up front companies to research biological and chemical weapons, said Goosen, who headed a covert military research lab under Basson's control.

6.12.98

► **PRINCIPAL QUILTS:** A white principal who suspended the student body president at a nearly all-black high school in Fairfax, S.C., has resigned under pressure from parents and students, officials said. Ronald Perry suspended Rickisha Youmans, 17, on Feb. 24 after she led an assembly in singing Lift Every Voice and Sing, known as the black national anthem, during a Black History Month assembly. Perry said he feared the song would be divisive. 3.4.98

► **SCHOOL NAMED:** The school board in Riverside, Calif., has voted unanimously to name a new high school after Martin Luther King Jr. despite claims by some white parents that people will think the school is predominantly black. Foes of the name say that could hurt students' college chances. The school will be about two-thirds white. 3.4.98

## Missouri

7.2.98

**Kansas City**—The University of Missouri has agreed to delay its plans to demolish more than 50 homes south of the campus to make way for a temporary parking lot. Residents criticized the plan, saying the area is a rare example of a stable multi-racial community.

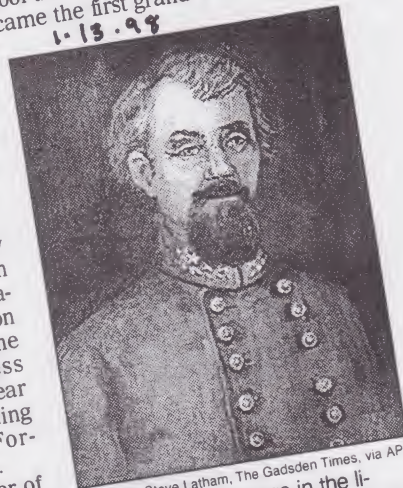
## School fight centers on Confederate

A black school board member in Gadsden, Ala., is campaigning to rename a school that bears the name of a Confederate general who became the first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. 1.13.98

General Forrest Middle School is named for Nathan Bedford Forrest, widely credited with creating modern guerrilla warfare tactics. He is revered by many Southern whites for his tenacious pursuit of Union forces throughout the South. Countless Southern males bear his name, including Alabama Gov. Forrest "Fob" James.

But his slaughter of captured soldiers, particularly black soldiers, was legendary. Board member Roberta Watts describes Forrest as a slave-owning, uneducated Klan leader, and said she will ask the board next month to rename the school.

Longtime schools superintendent Fred Taylor says the name won't be changed. "He had a right to be in the organization as much as these (black) folks have a right to be in the NAACP," said Taylor, who is white. "That doesn't mean he wasn't a hero in the war."



By Steve Latham, The Gadsden Times, via AP  
**Forrest:** Portrait hangs in the library of the school named for him

## An overdue honor

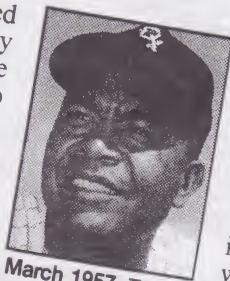
Baseball finally remembered Larry Doby Tuesday, belatedly electing him to its Hall of Fame — a curiously fitting tribute to one of the game's pioneers.

Doby was the first black player in the American League when the Cleveland Indians finally brought him up in 1947. Only weeks earlier, Jackie Robinson of the National League Brooklyn Dodgers had broken the color bar imposed when 19th century owners and players ran blacks out of the game.

Doby helped lead Cleveland to a World Series championship the next year, starred in the majors for 13 seasons, and later was a manager and executive — but was overlooked for the Hall of Fame until now.

His story, like Robinson's, was one of talent and character overcoming blind racism, North as well as South.

When he dropped out of Long Island University to fight for his country, he wasn't permitted to play for the camp team at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, where many current and future big leaguers were. He played for Camp Robert Smalls, a



March 1957: Today, finally, Doby is in Hall of Fame.

segregated black base next door. When he joined Cleveland, most of his new teammates refused to shake his outstretched hand; some spat tobacco juice at him in the dugout.

For several years Doby, Robinson and a handful of others were the only black players in the hostile environment of white baseball. Three franchises — Boston, Detroit and Philadelphia — couldn't find their way to fielding a single black player for a decade or more.

It was 28 years — 1975 — before the first black manager was appointed. Baseball's front offices are still conspicuous for their lack of diversity.

That's the ongoing history of baseball, just as it is of other sports and society as a whole: real progress but often grudging and always slow.

In that sense, Doby's admission to the Hall of Fame is fitting in its very tardiness — a reminder to baseball and the nation not only of the giants who helped break out of a shameful past but also of the need to face up to a still-unequal present. 3.4.98

## New Jersey

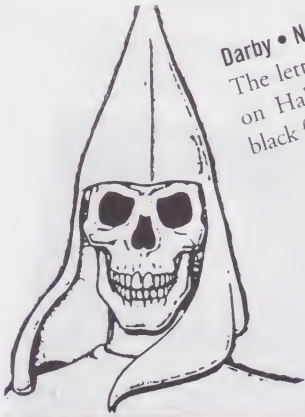
4.23.98

**Princeton** — Gladys Means, 58, who is white, said she will sue the state in federal court today because caseworkers with the Division of Youth and Family Services stalled and used threats to delay her adoption of two black boys.



File photo by AP  
**May 26, 1938:** Adolf Hitler speaks at the opening ceremony of the Volkswagen factory in Germany. In July, the car company pledged help for its WWII slave laborers.





## KKKonvicts

**Darby • Nov. 3, 1997**  
The letters "KKK" were written on Halloween decorations at a black family's residence.

**Colton • June 6, 1997**  
The letters "KKK" and racial epithets were written at a black woman's business.



**Kansas 7-7-96**  
Police sent for the FBI to help them investigate a cross-burning at Manuel Trujillo's home over the July Fourth weekend. Trujillo said an explosive device also was thrown at his son's car. He said he has ignored past racial attacks, but called police this time.

**COLUMBIA, S.C. 3-7-98**  
**Man who killed hitchhiker in 1978 executed**  
A white man who strangled a black hitchhiker and carved "KKK" into her body 20 years ago was executed yesterday by lethal injection.

John Arnold, 43, was convicted of killing Betty Gardner. Gardner, 33, was picked up by Arnold, his cousin John Plath and a female companion in 1978 as she made her way home. The companion, Cindy Sheets, led police to Gardner's body and testified against the cousins under a grant of immunity.



**Life sentence:** Sam Bowers, former Klan imperial wizard, is escorted Friday in Hattiesburg, Miss., after his conviction for the fire-bombing death of Vernon Dahmer Sr. in 1966.

By Rogelio Solis, AP

❑ Racist graffiti was found on a bridge in Miami Township, Ohio. The graffiti included the letters "KKK," plus swastikas and death threats directed against blacks. Police said the graffiti contained a generous use of the word "nigger." (Dayton Daily News, 7-17-98)

## Klan activist sentenced for sex-offense with girl

COVINGTON, Ky. (AP) — A Ku Klux Klan activist who had set up a Christmastime cross in Cincinnati for several years was sentenced yesterday to 55 years in prison for felony sex offenses involving two young girls. **3-17-98**  
Tony Gamble, 35, declined to comment at his sentencing in Kenton County Circuit Court.  
Gamble's lawyer said he planned to appeal.  
Gamble could be eligible for parole in 12 years.

**KKK SHOOTING:** A former Ku Klux Klan member in Columbia, S.C., received the maximum prison sentence of nearly 26 years for shooting three black teen-agers outside a nightclub two years ago. Joshua England, 20, admitted firing 11 times into a crowd outside Club Illusion on Oct. 27, 1996. England had attended a Klan rally and drank. **9-30-98**

► **MCVEIGH COMMENTS:** In a letter to a television reporter, Timothy McVeigh, convicted killer of 168 people in the Oklahoma City federal building bombing, called the district attorney who may prosecute him on state charges related to the bombing "a bloodthirsty killer" and those who want him tried in the state "a lynch mob." **3-17-98**

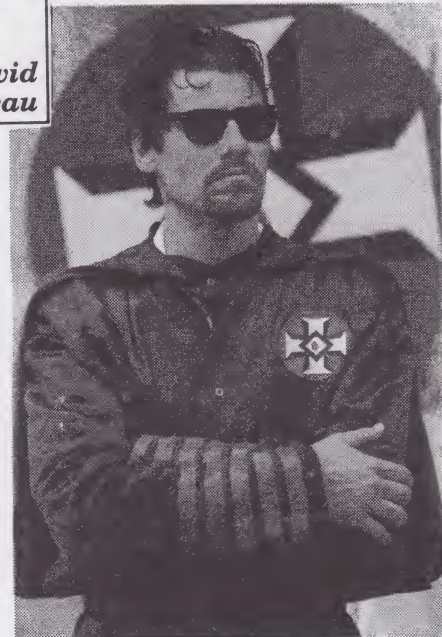
**KKK LEAFLETS:** A militant wing of the Ku Klux Klan has begun wrapping leaflets around free local papers and delivering them door to door, publishers say. The leaflets have been distributed in California, Pennsylvania, Texas, and North Carolina. The latest incident came this week in Santa Rosa, Calif., where the *Classified Gazette* was tossed on doorsteps, sheathed in an epithet-laced KKK leaflet vowing to "deport every African back to Africa where they belong." The KKK apparently took stacks of the paper from store racks, wrapped the leaflets around them and threw them into yards. San Francisco FBI spokesman George Grotz said that there is no clear violation of the law. **4-17-98**

**EAST ST. LOUIS —** Former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard Dennis McGiffen faces up to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty in federal court here to firearms conspiracy and possession charges. McGiffen, 35, of Wood River, Illinois, and four other men were charged in March in an alleged plot to blow up the Southern Poverty Law Center and to assassinate its co-founder and chief trial counsel, Morris Dees.

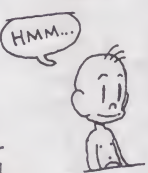
McGiffen organized a group called the New Order to use machine guns and bombs in bank robberies to raise cash to finance a white supremacist reign of terror. Their plans included blowing up court-houses and poisoning city water supplies.

"Distrust any enterprise that requires new clothes."

— Henry David Thoreau



Dennis McGiffen faces up to 15 years in prison.





**Charlotte • Jan. 16, 1998**  
The letters "KKK," swastikas and a middle school.

**LINCOLN, NEB. 10.22.98**  
**Homecoming king candidate charged**  
A candidate for high-school homecoming king also is charged with disorderly conduct in a mob march that included yelling racial slurs and brandishing a Confederate flag toward the home of a racially mixed couple. Josh Smith, 17, was among a group that last month marched on the home of Les Blyden, who is black, and Jennifer Manire, who is white. Marchers carried bats, clubs, sticks, Confederate flags and at least one white cross. Authorities said the march was in reaction to a fight that occurred at the residence two nights earlier.



**Indiana 2.11.98**  
**Martinsville** — School Supt. James Auter has issued a public apology for the alleged racial taunts and threats made by Martinsville High students and fans during a January basketball game. Bloomington North High black students and fans say they were subjected to racial slurs.



Associated Press

Protesters scuffle with John Patton, right. Patton said, "I got cracked in the head because I have a tattoo that says 'white power.'"

**Minnesota 10.29.98**  
**St. Paul** — University of St. Paul administrators and students are decrying recent hate crimes, including a death threat against a Jewish student and drawing of Nazi swastikas in bathrooms on school campuses.

**6. WHITE ARYAN LEGION MEMBERS ARRESTED:** Two Kentucky white supremacists were arrested on weapons, intimidation and vandalism charges May 20. Charles E. Hall Jr., 28, and Daniel Koplitz are alleged to be members of an eastern Kentucky group called the White Aryan Legion. Hall is charged with discrimination, threatening communications and destruction of government property; while Koplitz faces charges for illegal possession of the components of a bomb.

The charges stem from a series of racist threats and assaults on buildings in the town of Langley, Kentucky. The group sent threatening letters to several white women who associated with black or Hispanic men, according to the FBI. One of the letters read, "We know who you are, slut!! Be warned! Clean up your act!... The Mexican you are with is not fit to raise your children." In another incident, members of the White Aryan Legion are alleged to have fired shots at buildings in the town of Langley, Kentucky. Police are investigating whether others were involved in the incidents. The two face up to 10 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines if convicted.

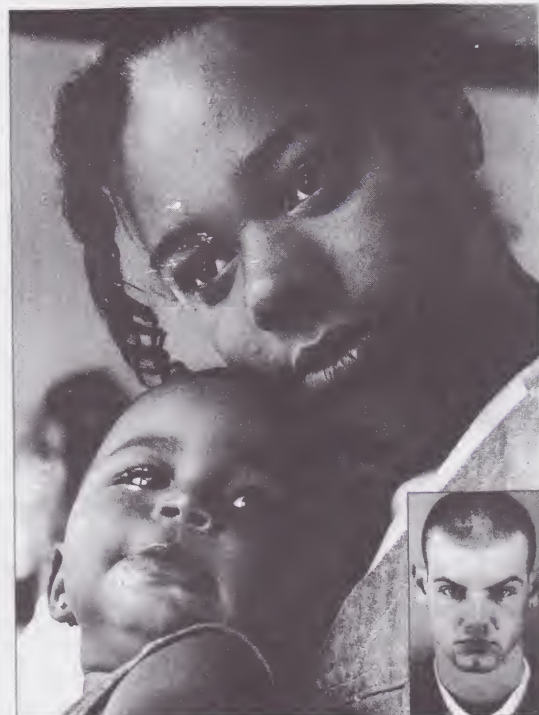
Leaflets distributed by the two declared their mission to be "a Second Revolution which will restore complete authority into the hands of those people of European ancestry... The liberals and the Jews and the wealthy White traitors who run this society will not last forever. Our time will come." In his court appearance, Hall wore a T-shirt bearing a Nazi swastika and the words "Supreme White Power!" He is reported to have a shaved head and a tattoo saying "Aryan" on the back of his neck (*Lexington Herald-Leader*, May 20).

#### HAIGHT CRIME

**N**EARLY 30 YEARS ago it was a "Summer of Love" in the legendary Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco. This year was a "summer of hate."

According to the *San Francisco Bay View*, at least 20 White males armed with chains, knives, bottles and skateboards attacked two Black couples and an infant on a neighborhood street earlier this summer. The Associated Press reports the Whites had been taunting the Blacks with racial slurs.

"Ten guys came after me...one of them had a knife and the other had a skateboard. The one with the knife hit me on top of the head with a chain and the other guy kept hitting me on my arm with the skateboard," says Victor Palmer, 19. One couple's baby was toppled out of her carriage, but was unharmed. Other victims were left with bruises and scrapes. A suspect who allegedly led the assault, Charles McDavid, 24, of Santa Cruz, has pleaded not guilty to five counts of assault, felony child abuse and hate crimes.



Desirée Butler and daughter Keianna were attacked in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district. Charles McDavid is charged.

**GRAYS FERRY TRIAL:** The trial of nine white men accused of attacking a black family in a racially troubled Philadelphia neighborhood ended with convictions for six defendants. But Judge Albert Snite rejected prosecutors' claims that the men, all in their 20s and 30s, were part of a racial conspiracy in the working-class Grays Ferry section. Authorities said the men attacked Annette Williams, 34, and her teen-age son and nephew last Feb. 23, smashing the windows of their row house, kicking down the front door and shouting racial slurs. Three were convicted on felony charges, three more on simple-assault misdemeanors.

**Miami** — Nine Killian High School students were charged under Florida's hate-crimes law with publishing an underground booklet filled with racist and vulgar language and suggestions of violence against their black principal, Timothy Dawson. The group included five girls and four boys, most of them on the honor roll.







# Heroes & Villains

Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) just published a very cool 10-year survey of U.S. movies to figure out who Hollywood wants us to root for—and against. Here's a sample:

"Most American films contain clearly defined heroes and villains. Heroes and villains can provide an intellectual shorthand for audiences by reducing complex issues to simplistic defined An ideal celluloid hero is a courageous warrior who stops at nothing to defend the status quo, often through individualist proved of the period came from the government. And the most popular bad guys? Not psychotic killers. Not corporate exploiters. The most common category of movie villains is the most portrayed as bad than in a positive way. This category includes countries perceived as 'communist'—China, Russia, Vietnam, and Cuba. But the culture for which Hollywood has shown its greatest contempt has been Middle Eastern cul- ture. Eighteen films were released in those years featuring either Arab or Middle Eastern vil- lains. They are often hostile soldiers (GI Jane, 1997) or terrorists (True Lies, 1994). Meanwhile the only film starring an Arab hero was a cartoon, the much criticized Aladdin (1992). This movie survey is only one example of the terrific work done by FAIR. They put out a great magazine called Extra, which is very helpful in cutting through the bullshit of 'corporate cul- ture.' Write to FAIR, P.O. Box 170, Congers, NY 10920 (\$19/yr). Check out <<http://www.fair.org/>>.

## PREJUDICE AGAINST ARABS



Especially in times of crisis in the Middle East or during incidents of terrorism, the 2 million to 3 million Americans of Arab descent are vulnerable to a level of harassment and violence most of us are unaware of.

"The day is coming when a single carrot, freshly observed, will set off a revolution."  
— Paul Cézanne



### Anti-Arab Radio Talk Show Host Is Fired

Newstalk Radio WGY 810 in Albany, New York, fired one of its talk show hosts, Mark Williams, who is notorious for making repeated anti-Arab comments on the air. Williams' last day at work was Sept. 14.

On Aug. 28, Williams urged fellow New Yorkers to burn Palestinian flags and effigies of "monkeys," which he equated with Arabs. This was not the first time that Williams spewed anti-Arab hatred on the airwaves. In February of 1997, he called Palestinians "animals." He suggested that Islam, a religion with 1 billion adherents worldwide and millions of followers in the United States, should be outlawed. He also described Arabs as "tree-swinging savages."

An ADC campaign in 1997 generated a flood of letters and phone calls of protest against such hate-filled speech. This led to an apology from WGY General Manager Michael Whalen who stated committed to "fostering racial harmony." But this did not deter Williams who remained unwilling to heed Arab-American concerns.

He added that "another thing that years featuring either Arab or Middle Eastern vil- lains. They are often hostile soldiers (GI Jane, 1997) or terrorists (True Lies, 1994). Meanwhile the only film starring an Arab hero was a cartoon, the much criticized Aladdin (1992). This movie survey is only one example of the terrific work done by FAIR. They put out a great magazine called Extra, which is very helpful in cutting through the bullshit of 'corporate cul- ture.' Write to FAIR, P.O. Box 170, Congers, NY 10920 (\$19/yr). Check out <<http://www.fair.org/>>.



### Increased FBI Surveillance

Since the Secretary of State issued the list of 30 designated "terrorist organizations" — out of which 17 are Arab and Muslim groups — surveillance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has increased.

The FBI has an additional operating budget of over \$400 million dollars to be used for surveillance against immigrant communities. Mosques will be particularly targeted. The FBI will make attempts to investigate and gather information on the lawful activities of members of the community.

### Beastie Boys Denounce Anti-Arab Racism

When 25 million people tuned in to watch the MTV Music Awards on Sept. 10, they were not only treated to the music of the Beastie Boys rappers, but also to a few minutes of sound news analysis.

In his thank you speech upon receiving the well-deserved Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award, Adam Yauch denounced anti-Arab racism and criticized U.S. policy in the Middle East. Little did they know that his musical talents were complimented by an interest in international affairs, particu- larly peace and justice issues. "I think it was a real mistake that the U.S. chose to fire missiles into the Mid- dle East," Yauch said. "It's very impor- tant that the United States starts to look toward nonviolent means of resolving conflicts."

He added that "another thing that years featuring either Arab or Middle Eastern vil- lains. They are often hostile soldiers (GI Jane, 1997) or terrorists (True Lies, 1994). Meanwhile the only film starring an Arab hero was a cartoon, the much criticized Aladdin (1992). This movie survey is only one example of the terrific work done by FAIR. They put out a great magazine called Extra, which is very helpful in cutting through the bullshit of 'corporate cul- ture.' Write to FAIR, P.O. Box 170, Congers, NY 10920 (\$19/yr). Check out <<http://www.fair.org/>>.

Mr. Adam Yauch  
The Beastie Boys  
c/o Mr. John Silva  
Gold Mountain Entertainment  
3575 Caluenga Blvd. West, #450  
Los Angeles, CA 90068



A RARE  
MOMENT  
OF LUCIDITY



The use of profiling, a security tactic put in place by the White House, targets travelers with Arabic names, Middle Eastern accents or dark skin. Often, their baggage is hand-searched, their personal items are left on the floor and they are verbally abused.

■ **Arabs/Muslims: Not synonymous.** Nearly 20 percent of the approximately 1 billion Muslims worldwide are Arab and about eight percent of Arabs are Christians.





Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe, who visited Scotland for the British Commonwealth summit in October, left without accepting the invitation of British gay rights leaders to be hooked up to an erotic arousal machine to determine whether his rabid anti-gay bias is really a shield for homosexual feelings. Mugabe has called gays "lower than dogs and pigs." Erection-measuring research by a University of Georgia professor indicates that as many as 80 percent of gay-hating men become aroused at gay erotic videos.

## QUEER AND OVER IT



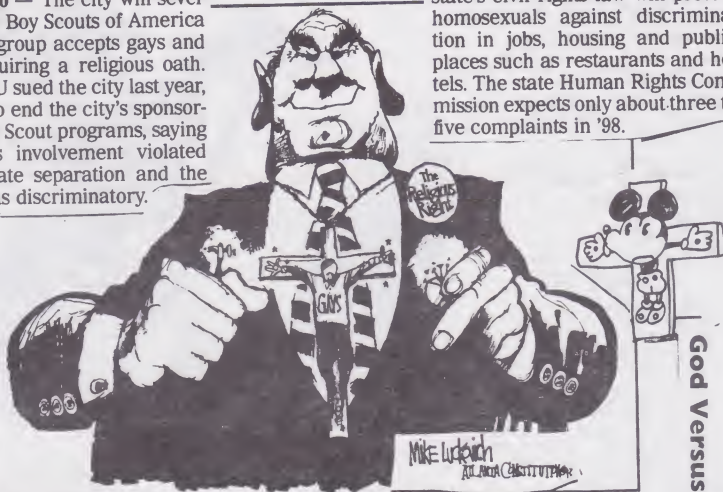
**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "I felt like I can be a role model for everyone, but I guess it's better for gay kids because they don't have many role models in sports."

— Martina Navratilova, the former No. 1 women's player in the world, who at 41 continues to play in World Team Tennis.

### Illinois

2.6.98

**Chicago** — The city will sever ties to the Boy Scouts of America until the group accepts gays and stops requiring a religious oath. The ACLU sued the city last year, seeking to end the city's sponsorship of 28 Scout programs, saying the city's involvement violated church-state separation and the policy was discriminatory.



### South Carolina

3.13.98

**Greenville** — A student club dedicated to ending bigotry against homosexuals can meet at Mauldin High School because a Bible club was given the same privilege by the school board, administrators say. ... 1997: \$321 million; 1998-2003: \$401 million.

**DOMESTIC PARTNERS:** Unmarried couples in New York City, including gays and lesbians, will be treated the same as married couples under landmark legislation passed by City Council. The law, one of the broadest domestic partner policies in the nation, allows bereavement leave for city employees, "family" visitation rights in city facilities and tenant succession rights, among other things. 6.23.98

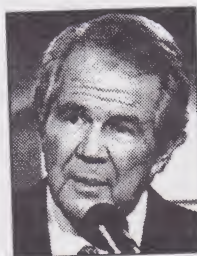
## Robertson: Gay Days to bring disaster

Some Orlando residents said they were unshaken by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson's warning that a gay tourism event might lead to natural disasters for the city.

An estimated 120,000 gay and lesbian tourists visited Orlando last weekend for Gay Days. Rainbow-colored gay pride flags were prominently displayed on city lampposts.

"I would warn Orlando that you're right in the way of some serious hurricanes and I don't think I'd be waving those flags in God's face if I were you," Robertson said this week on his TV show, *The 700 Club*. Robertson also predicted that tolerance of homosexuality "will bring terrorist bombs, it'll bring earthquakes, tornadoes and possibly a meteor."

Jim DeSimone, aide to Mayor Glenda Hood, said Robertson has "his right to have that opinion and we just hope he is wrong." Said local Baptist minister Randy Young: "Orlando is a pretty moral town. If God was going to hurl a meteor at someone, you'd think he'd start with Las Vegas."



Robertson: 'Serious hurricanes'

6.11.98



By Morry Gash, AP

**No silent partner:** Sara White, left, criticizes CBS tonight on ABC's '20/20' for not hiring husband Reggie White, right.

4.27.98

## Wife comes to White's defense

Sara White said CBS was "too scared" to hire her husband, Green Bay's Reggie White, as a football commentator because of his controversial speech before the Wisconsin State Assembly. White, the Packers defensive lineman who retired and unretired last week, used ethnic stereotypes and called homosexuality "one of the biggest sins" in the Bible in his remarks last month. "They were too scared of the Sodomite community is what they said," Sara White told ABC's 20/20, according to excerpts of the interview to be broadcast tonight at 9 ET. "Well, you know what? Shame on them! I feel sorry for them because they can't stand the truth." CBS had been talking to White about becoming an analyst, but the network said outside groups had no bearing on its decision to not hire him. White, an ordained Baptist minister, said he does not regret his speech. "My intent was not to humiliate anyone," White told ABC. "It was to get people to realize, 'OK ... we are different, we have different cultures. If we come together, we will have more of an impact on the world,' White said he stands by his remarks regarding gays. "I am going to speak the truth, and I am going to speak out against things that's hurting our children, that's killing off our people," he said. "If people think that's a contradiction and that's hate, they need to take them up with God, not with Reggie White."

... Hey, God, any

chance you might just tell Reggie White to shut up?

### Massachusetts

6.25.98

**Boston** — Gay community members rallied at the Statehouse to support bills that would allow gay and lesbian workers to include their partners in their health insurance coverage. One bill would allow Boston to offer health benefits to all domestic partners; the other would allow state and local governments to do the same.

### Rhode Island

6.22.98

**Providence** — About 3,000 people who gathered for the 23rd annual Gay and Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride Parade and rally took time to praise the state Senate's repeal of sodomy law for the 102-year-old sodomy law forbidding oral and anal sex. The House had earlier passed the bill and Gov. Almond has said he will not veto it. Also, Mayor Vincent Cianci is planning to recruit openly gay police officers to the force, said a city official.

### Alabama

6.26.98

The state Supreme Court has removed a child from the custody of her biological mother, ruling that a child is exposed to a lifestyle that is illegal in Alabama under a law. The girl will be returned to her father, who has remarried.

Gay  
&

Lesbian

Equality





# School is ordered to accept student

Ruling in lawsuit favors 15-year-old with pierced tongue

DAYTON (AP) — A 15-year-old student suspended from school after wearing tongue jewelry will be allowed to return to classes following an order from a federal magistrate yesterday.

U.S. Magistrate Michael Merz issued a temporary restraining order barring Tecumseh High School in New Carlisle from keeping Michael Dyer Jr. from attending classes.

The action followed a federal lawsuit filed against the board of education Tuesday by Dyer's father, Michael Dyer Sr.

According to the lawsuit, the younger Dyer has been suspended from school four separate times totaling 25 days for failing to obey an order from a school administrator.

Dyer refused to open his mouth

or to remove the jewelry pierced to his tongue, the lawsuit said.

It said Dyer uses body pierces, tattoos and unique hair styles to express his opposition to the use of drugs and in favor of original and creative thought.

The lawsuit said Dyers' constitutional rights to free expression and to be free from unreasonable searches were violated.

In his ruling, Merz wrote that Dyer's academic career could be hurt if he was not allowed to return to school pending a preliminary-injunction hearing Feb. 17.

Merz said that if Dyer removes the jewelry before the hearing, the hole would start to close up and the tongue would have to be repierced.

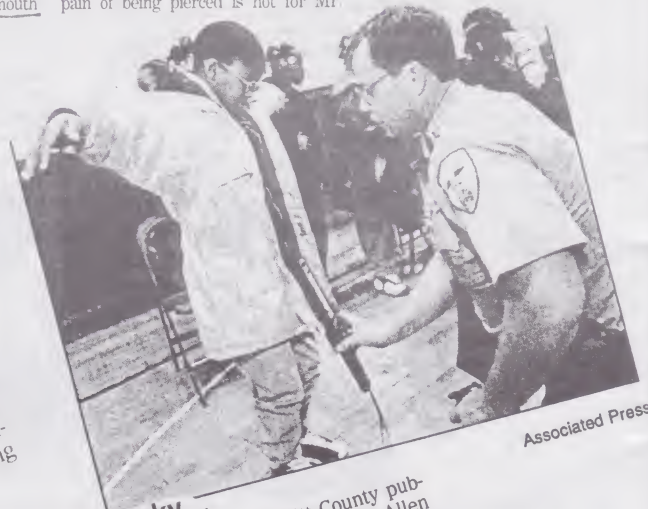
"The court assumes that the pain of being pierced is not for Mr.

Dyer Jr. an enjoyable attraction of this particular fashion," Merz wrote. "Thus to deny temporary relief would be to impose a significant cost on him — the pain of repiercing — assuming the court were to decide this behavior is protected expression."

The school board said in a statement it would abide by Merz' order but feels there is a strong need for its rules against such jewelry.

The board has said its ban on body piercing other than earrings is needed because of concerns about health and safety, impact on ability to communicate and interference with the education process.

A message left for Dyer was not immediately returned.



Associated Press

North Carolina  
6.1.99

Raleigh — Democratic Rep. Alex Warner has proposed a bill that would appoint a commission to study whether the state should allow schools to bear commercial trademarks and logos. Warner says its only a matter of time before corporate sponsorship trends come to schools and North Carolina should embrace the idea early. School districts in five states already have corporate sponsors.

YEAH, RIGHT



Indiana  
3.19.99

Indianapolis — Four teens who say they were detained by police without cause at a downtown mall are suing the city. Mayor Stephen Goldsmith and the police department. The Indiana Civil Liberties Union said two of the youths assume they were confronted because the officers mistook their hats for gang symbols. City officials haven't commented on the case.

**SPEAK, DON'T SPANK:** If you want smarter kids, don't spank them. Murray Straus of the University of New Hampshire studied more than 900 1- to 4-year-olds over four years. The more the children were spanked, the lower their scores on tests of cognitive ability. Straus thinks that's because parents who don't hit their children spent more time talking to them, and "research shows that such interactions enhance the child's cognitive ability." 8.4.97

LEAVE THOSE KIDS ALONE

**Fonda's remarks on sex education**  
6.30.98

Jane Fonda, in a speech last Wednesday at Washington's National Press Club, called on Americans to speak out against the abstinence-till-marriage sex education formula for preventing pregnancy among teen-agers.

Asked why Christian conservatives do not agree, Fonda replied: "They don't care about children that don't look like them."

They don't care about children that are not white, middle-class Christians. As far as they're concerned, others can be eliminated. This is a holy war, and everything for our children is at stake."



Kentucky  
12.8.97

Shepherdsville — Bullitt County public school music teacher Jennifer Allen could face disciplinary action for reportedly using masking tape to close the mouths of 15 students.

South Carolina  
12.10.97

Georgetown — McDonald Elementary School teacher Josie Solomon, 39, won't be prosecuted on charges she forced two kindergarten students to eat Moon Pies they threw into the garbage, authorities said.



## Teen takes fight against pledge to court

Girl fighting to quietly skip salute

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A high school sophomore who objects to reciting the Pledge of Allegiance is fighting for the right to sit quietly during the daily exercise.

"Until a few months ago, I stood and faced the flag with my hand over my heart and mechanically said the Pledge of Allegiance," MaryKait Durkee said Friday. "But I thought about what the pledge actually meant and I disagreed with its message."

She said she doesn't believe in God, thinks the U.S. government is corrupt and that American society is too violent, so she shouldn't have to show respect for a country that has so many problems.

After refusing to go along

with the pledge, she was threatened with detention, although her mother told officials at Fallbrook Union High School the girl has parental permission to forgo the pledge.

As a result, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit in behalf of the 15-year-old to protect her First Amendment free-speech rights.

It all started April 1, when the girl told her world history teacher, Lutz Zastrow, that she would sit quietly at her desk while the rest of the class stood for the pledge.

When the class finished, Zastrow ordered her to stand in front of the class and recite the pledge by herself. MaryKait refused,

raising her voice at Zastrow when he demanded her obedience.

The teacher threatened her with detention and sent her to the principal's office, the girl said.

The school, about 50 miles north of San Diego, contacted MaryKait's mother, who told officials she had given her daughter permission to not salute the flag.

"Hopefully, all people will realize that there is another way to express themselves if they want to express themselves, and that they can get support without resorting to drastic measures," Ann Durkee said, adding that she hoped a court victory might restore the girl's faith in the system.

The lawsuit seeks a ruling allowing her to sit quietly as others salute.

20 For the ensuing three weeks,

MaryKait sat silently in her seat during the pledge. On April 25, she was notified she had to serve four hours of detention and stand during the salute.

Fallbrook Union High School District superintendent Tom Anthony said it is important for students to show respect for the flag, but he was surprised the Durkees contacted the ACLU and thinks the dispute could have been resolved out of court.

The ACLU will seek a restraining order Tuesday, asking that MaryKait be allowed to forgo the pledge during the final two weeks of the school year while the case proceeds through court.

The girl, a self-described loner who wants to become a veterinarian, said she was simply following her beliefs.



Associated Press

MaryKait Durkee, 15, explains to reporters why she and the American Civil Liberties Union have sued for her right to sit quietly during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bert is Evil!  
www.fractalcow.com/bert/bert.html  
How did Mr. Hooper really die? The untold story.

Michigan  
3.26.99

A House panel passed a bill that would let malls ban youths under 16 on weekend nights unless accompanied by a parent or someone 19 or older. The Senate has already OK'd the bill.





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will appear.



Playful session: The Dalai Lama laughs after trying to pull off Bishop Desmond Tutu's hat Thursday in Charlottesville, Va.

By Bill Clark, The Daily Progress, via AP

Little Boys

Peace . . . comes within the souls of men when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the Universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the Universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that this center is really everywhere. It is within each of us.

BLACK ELK